



Claire Hepner Wilder Thompson

August 25, 1926 - March 28, 2018

Claire Hepner Wilder Thompson died peacefully after a brief illness on March 28, 2018. She is survived by her sister, Lois Ryan, three children, Vivian Lorch, Julia Wilder and George Wilder, her grandsons, Adam Lorch and Matthew Lorch and two greatgrandchildren.

Claire was born in 1926 and grew up in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was close to her large extended family, regularly going to the Jersey shore with them following Sunday School for fresh fish and smoked oysters on the beach. For two years, her family relocated to a mining town, Helvetia, Pennsylvania, where her father was the company doctor with one of only two telephones in the town. It was a grand adventure out in the wilds that she and her brother Herk and sister Lois loved. Her family moved to Bloomington in 1940, in time for her to start her freshman year at University High School. She remained close to these classmates throughout her years in Bloomington.

Claire attended Indiana University, student teaching in a fourth grade classroom, and was admitted to IU medical school.

She married Richard L. Wilder in 1948 and they raised their family on Atwater Avenue, while Dick practiced law and her children attended school and played on the IU campus. She was active in many social and service organizations, including Kappa Kappa Gamma alums, PEO, Psi Iota Xi with its thrift shop and an investment club.

Claire enjoyed becoming a licensed realtor following Dick's death, as she had

managed their rental properties around Bloomington. She was "fixed up" with Cal Thompson in May 1985 and they were married that November. They enjoyed traveling all over the country, sporting the license plate "Calaire" on the back of their car. They visited one another's friends and families, in San Diego, Honolulu, Key West, and especially enjoyed wintering in Phoenix, Arizona near Cal's son, Calvin Jr. and his family.

After Cal died, Claire remained in the beautiful home she and Dick had built. She loved living in Bloomington. She had her pew at the First United Church, lunched regularly at the Uptown Cafe and was visited often by family and friends. She enjoyed her independence and was remembered by people as a warm and gracious person.

She will be missed by many.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday April 7th at 11:00 A.M. at First United Church with visitation at the church prior to the service from 10:00AM until the time of the service at 11:00AM. Burial will occur in the Valhalla Memory Gardens after a brief reception following the service at the church. Expressions of sympathy may be made to First United Church.

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Memory Gardens

310 North Johnson Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47401

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Church
2420 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Memorial Service

APR 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Church
2420 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Tribute Wall



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Claire Hepner Wilder Thompson.*



April 06, 2018 at 01:07 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Claire Hepner Wilder Thompson.*



April 06, 2018 at 12:03 PM



“ *With love from the Fleitas & Bezy families purchased the Fields of Europe for the family of Claire Hepner Wilder Thompson.*



With love from the Fleitas & Bezy families - April 06, 2018 at 09:50 AM

PG

“ Our whole family was so sorry to hear about Claire's passing. We live down the street from her and she was here when we moved in in 1992 and has watched our children grow from babies to adults. She was a lovely, smart, feisty person and fascinating to talk to. We shared stories of growing up the daughters of doctors. Until a couple of years ago she walked down the street to our annual Superbowl party (where half the guests have no interest in football) and mingled happily with complete strangers and neighbors alike. We will miss having her in our lives.

The Guthrie/Tanford family, Woodstock Place

philippa guthrie - April 06, 2018 at 09:37 AM



“ *Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Claire Hepner Wilder Thompson.*



April 04, 2018 at 05:33 PM

BS

“ *Bill and Sara, Jennifer, Carolyn and Stewart purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Claire Hepner Wilder Thompson.*



Bill and Sara, Jennifer, Carolyn and Stewart - April 01, 2018 at 10:46 PM